

Director Wants Discrimination

"If discrimination doesn't end and black leaders don't step forth and provide positive, responsible leadership, it will probably happen again," said Morgan Anderson.

Director of the Frederick County Human Relations Council, Anderson offered his response with other countians to the disturbance at the National Guard Armory during Governor George Wallace's rally.

"The point is I don't think the people in Frederick are doing the best they can. I hope it doesn't happen again. Records show that when the violence builds up and the clubs start swinging, it's the kids who end up dying," Anderson said.

Anderson was an eyewitness to the disturbance outside the Armory.

"I think it's important not to minimize what happened. The disturbance this year was larger than the one last year in terms of number of participants and the amount of property damage."

Anderson saw the disturbance as neither a teenage rampage just for kicks, as some whites described it, nor as unmerciful discrimination against blacks by police, as some blacks saw it.

"It was an inappropriate and irresponsible expression of frustration on the part of the youth," he said. "They are frustrated by being in poverty and not know-

ing how to get out, by having inadequate housing and by not having full opportunities in employment."

Anderson said that frustration could be soothed by help from white landlords and employers but "Just as important is the fact that many black parents and potential black leaders are unwilling or unable to exercise the positive leadership and discipline that would thwart what happened."

Anderson said the youth might have been quieted had white and black teachers, athletes or other adults known and respected by them taken action during the disturbance.

"The disturbance would have been a lot worse had not the police very wisely exercised a great deal of restraint," he said.

As an explanation of his views, Anderson requested that the News-Post print his own account of the Thursday night rally. It follows in its entirety.

I entered the armory building at 7:40 p.m. I had been standing in a side aisle for about 10 minutes when a man dressed in a suit told me that no one would be permitted to stand in the aisles and I would have to sit down.

I then left the room. As I walked out I observed that practically all of the seats were taken except two rows in the very back of the room.

Outside, approximately 25 persons stood chatting in several small groups while others arrived and walked into the armory.

At approximately 8:05 p.m. a crowd of about 20 persons began forming directly in front of the open armory door. I overheard one of those near the door say that no more people would be allowed in the building because all the seats were filled.

This explanation seemed reasonable to me because enough people to fill the remaining seats had entered the armory during the 15 minutes which had elapsed since I had left the building. I cannot recall seeing any black persons among those who were first turned away.

At this point three young black men arrived at the front of the armory. One began shouting "black power, black power." He repeatedly shouted his demand to be let in the building.

The shouting youth and his two companions pushed their way to the front of the crowd at the doorway. They were soon joined there by other young blacks who had previously been standing on nearby sidewalks.

As the young blacks pushed their way forward, the whites who had first occupied the doorway

either withdrew or were pushed back from the entrance.

The young people crowded into the doorway shouting their demands to be let in, singing "We Shall Overcome," and chanting "Wallace ain't s---."

Men in suits, possibly police detectives, blocked the doorway and told the youths that all the seats were taken, that they could hear the proceedings through loudspeakers outside the building, and to not block the doorway.

A white woman and a white man pushed to the front of the crowd and identified themselves as reporters.

I could not see whether or not they were admitted because at that moment the crowd surged forward a few inches through the doorway. They were pushed back by uniformed city policemen.

After clearing the doorway, the police closed the doors. The youths pressed against the closed doors and continued their disturbance.

The doors suddenly flung open and city policemen and deputy sheriffs surged out a few feet beyond the doorway. An officer, with the aid of a bullhorn, ordered the crowd to disperse within three minutes. The crowd did disperse immediately. Most of

Ended And More Black Leadership

the 30-or-so black youths who had tried to force their way in the front door, along with the 30-or-so white youths who had watched the disturbance, drifted to the back of the armory.

A row of riot equipped city police lined each side of the sidewalk from the curb on West Second Street to the back steps of the armory. The crowd behind the armory gradually swelled. It was predominantly young and predominantly black. A few provocateurs shouted at police, knocked on policemen's helmets, or danced on the sidewalk between the double row of policemen. The officers remained at parade rest.

Tension grew. Two young white men traded punches with two blacks. Deputy sheriffs, one of them black, quickly broke up the fight.

As the fighters were separating a black man in his 20s ran through the crowd and lunged into one of the two white men who had been fighting a few seconds earlier. The two rolled on the ground until the deputy sheriffs pulled them apart.

The two white men began walking west on West Second Street. About 30 youthful black males followed the two white men taunting them and flailing them with sticks and belts. A solid line

of city policemen, walking shoulder to shoulder, swept down West Second Street behind the whites and their assailants.

The two white men gradually quickened their pace and finally broke into a run. The black youths ran after the two, striking them repeatedly with sticks and belts. For no apparent reason the chase ended at the corner of West Second Street and College Avenue.

Sometime between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Governor Wallace and his five-man entourage of Secret Service agents, state police, campaign assistants, and wife arrived at the back of the armory.

The Wallace party huddled together and used their hands and arms as shields as they ran from their cars, between the double line of policemen, and into the armory. Nevertheless, some of the party were struck by sticks and saliva let loose by a few blacks in the crowd which now numbered about 150.

Governor Wallace spoke for about 45 minutes. During his speech about 40 riot equipped state police entered and waited in the park across West Second Street from the armory.

The crowd behind the armory dispersed somewhat during the speech but swelled to about 300

when it became apparent that the governor was about to leave the building. The crowd was still predominantly age 15 to 25 but its racial composition had changed. Now it was about 50 per cent white.

The state police joined the city police, making a double line of police along the walk and around the cars.

As the Wallace party ran from the armory they, and almost everyone standing near them, were showered with rocks, sticks, and bottles. This time white youths, as well as black youths, threw missiles and pounded and spat on the party's automobiles.

About 200 of those who had been protesting Governor Wallace's presence continued to mill about the armory after the governor had gone. Police ordered people to leave the area. A few minutes later the policemen once again began moving shoulder-to-shoulder in a solid line through the thinning crowd. Their purpose in doing this was to further disperse the crowd and to open West Second Street to traffic.

About 40 black youths held an impromptu sit-in at the corner of West Second Street and North Bentz Street. The protesters blocked the sidewalk and about one-half of the west lane of

North Bentz Street. The protesters were pretty much ignored by the police.

The sit-in had been in progress for about five minutes when an automobile carrying several white youths turned left off of West Second Street onto North Bentz Street. Someone in the car threw a board, perhaps four feet long, at the protesters.

The protesters jumped to their feet and began running after the automobile down Bentz Street. About 20 policemen, again marching abreast, followed the youths down the street.

Most of the youths and all of the police continued moving south on Bentz Street into the predominantly black neighborhood in south Frederick.

However, about 10 youths split off from the larger group and charged through part of downtown Frederick, overturning trash cans and breaking windows in private residences and businesses. Merchandise in the windows of Colonial Jewelry was looted.

The protesters wrapped up their evening by stoning moving cars in the neighborhood encompassed by West Patrick Street, Jefferson Street, South Street, and South Market Street. Reportedly, one group of rock hurlers was composed of white youths.